

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /016 R

66604

DRAFTED BY PM/SAS:RWSMITH

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APPROVED BY PM/SAS:SWINSHIP

EUR/SE - MR. HIRSHORN

DOD/DSAA - MR. BETTELEY (INFO)

PM/SAS - MR. JAMES

P - MR. MARTINEZ

S/S - M. TANNER

----- 128956

P 211809Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO USCINCEUR PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 113116

EXDIS - MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING MESSAGE SENT ACTION AMEMBASSY ATHENS INFO
AMEMBASSY ANKARA FROM SECSTATE WASHDC 15 MAY 75:

QUOTE S E C R E T STATE 113116

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MASS, GR, TU

SUBJECT: US ASSISTANCE TO GREECE

REFS: (A) STATE 97045; (B) ATHENS 3176

1. UNDER SECRETARY SISCO MET WITH GREEK AMBASSADOR ALEXAND-
RAKIS MAY 13 AT OUR INITIATIVE TO GIVE LATTER AN INTERIM RE-
PLY TO QUESTIONS RAISED ON APRIL 24 (REF A) CONCERNING MILI-
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TARY ASSISTANCE.

2. SISCO SAID THE US REMAINED GENUINELY INTERESTED IN RESUMING THE GREEK MAP PROGRAM. HOWEVER, AS MR. HARTMAN HAD TOLD FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS IN ATHENS (REF B), WE WOULD HAVE SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES IN DOING SO AS LONG AS THE TURKISH MILITARY AID PROGRAM IS SUSPENDED.

3. WHILE HE COULD NOT MAKE A FIRM COMMITMENT, SISCO SAID WE WERE HOPEFUL THAT WE WOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF GRANT MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO GREECE SHOULD THE TURKISH ARMS PROGRAM BE RESUMED. SISCO TOLD ALEXANDRAKIS WE HAVE ALREADY PROVIDED \$86 MILLION OF FMS CREDIT TO GREECE FOR FY 75, AND WILL DO OUR BEST TO PROVIDE A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT IN FY 76.

4. SISCO SAID HE HAD NOTICED REPORTS FROM ATHENS THAT SOME SECTIONS OF GREEK PUBLIC OPINION APPEARED TO HAVE MISUNDERSTOOD THE PRESIDENT'S OFFER OF ASSISTANCE TO GREECE. WE DO, HOWEVER, FACE CERTAIN POLITICAL REALITIES HERE AND WOULD FIND IT VERY DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN WHY WE HAD INCREASED OUR ASSISTANCE TO ONE ALLY AT A TIME WHEN WE HAD PLACED ANOTHER NATO ALLY UNDER AN ARMS EMBARGO. SISCO ADDED THAT DATA ON PRICE AND AVAILABILITY OF THE ITEMS THE GOG HAD REQUESTED OF US EARLIER HAD BEEN SUPPLIED TO THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE HELLENIC ARMED FORCES, THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE, AND THE SERVICE CHIEFS BY OUR EMBASSY IN ATHENS.

5. SISCO SAID WE ARE CONTINUING TO LOOK FOR WAYS TO BE OF HELP. IN LINE WITH THIS, WE ARE CONTINUING TO STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF RESCHEDULING PRINCIPAL PAYMENTS OF EARLIER FMS DIRECT CREDIT LOAN AGREEMENTS. WE HAVE ALSO TAKEN SEVERAL STEPS TO ASSIST GREECE ON THE ECONOMIC SIDE. MR. CASEY, CHAIRMAN OF THE EXIM BANK, HAD RECENTLY VISITED ATHENS AND HAD HAD VERY USEFUL DISCUSSIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXPANDING EXIM LENDING IN GREECE. SISCO PROMISED WE WOULD FOLLOW THIS UP. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE US HAS SUPPORTED IBRD EFFORTS TO INCREASE ITS LENDING TO GREECE. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE BANK IS PLANNING TO SIGN LOANS TOTALLING \$135 MILLION THIS CALENDAR YEAR--A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE OVER THE PAST AVERAGE OF \$40 MILLION A YEAR.

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6. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LAINGEN ADDED THAT WE HAD BEEN LOOKING INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF CCC CREDITS. WHILE THEY WERE STILL NOT AVAILABLE FOR FEED GRAINS BECAUSE OF MARKET CONDITIONS, THE SITUATION COULD CHANGE. GREEK MINISTER NOMIKOS ASKED WHETHER THE US WOULD BE ABLE TO SUPPLY SOME MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO GREECE AT "SYMBOLIC PRICES." SISCO SAID WE WERE STILL LOOKING INTO THAT PROBLEM. AMBAS-

SADOR ALEXANDRAKIS THANKED MR. SISCO AND SAID THAT IN RECENT YEARS THERE HAD BEEN AN INBALANCE BETWEEN THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO GREECE AND TO TURKEY. HE THOUGHT THIS WAS NOT IN THE INTEREST OF THE WEST.

7. BOTH SISCO AND ALEXANDRAKIS EXPRESSED THEIR SATISFACTION AT THE OUTCOME OF THE GREEK/AMERICAN BASE NEGOTIATIONS AFTER WHICH SISCO BRIEFED ALEXANDRAKIS ON THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION AND THE CUBAN EMBARGO. KISSINGER UNQUOTE
INGERSOLL

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